

Applying for a Virginia Driver's License

Podcast Transcript

Duration: 3:15

Robert Irving, Customer Service Operations Director, discusses the documents necessary to obtain a Virginia driver's license.

Announcer (Bill Foy): Whether you are applying for the first-time, or renewing a driver's license, there are specific things you can do to save time and be successful getting your new license. Robert Irving is DMV's Customer Service Director, and can tell us exactly what to do. Robert, bringing the right documents to DMV is the key, right? Let's start with those folks who are new to Virginia. What do they need to do?

Robert Irving: If you have a valid driver's license from another state, you'll be required to surrender your old license and take a vision test. You'll also need to bring a couple of documents that will help you prove what's called legal presence. That means either you are a citizen of this country, or you're in the country legally. In order to do so, you must show two proofs of identity, one proof of legal presence and one proof of Virginia residency. Proof of your social security number, if you have been issued one, is required also. Your new Virginia license will be valid for five years and the fee will be \$20.

Announcer: So what kinds of documents provide proof of legal presence?

Robert: An original birth certificate, an unexpired US Passport, a Resident Alien card. The full list and an explanation is on our web site at www.dmvNOW.com

Announcer: What about folks who want to renew their Virginia license?

Robert: Lots of folks can renew online, without having to visit our customer service centers. But if you're not eligible to renew online and your current license has not expired, all you need to bring is your license and \$20 for the renewal fee.

Announcer: What if you let things slip and your license has expired?

Robert: Then it gets a little more complicated. You'll have to prove legal presence, with the documents we just mentioned. Again...two proofs of identity, one proof of legal presence, and proof of Virginia residency. The full list is on www.dmvNOW.com.

Legal presence documents are also needed if you are reinstating your driving privilege after a suspension or revocation.

Announcer: What about those prospective new drivers, coming in for the first time?

Robert: Applicants for learner's permits must be at least 15 years and six months old. And you'll need two proofs of identity, one proof of legal presence and one proof of Virginia residency. If you've been issued a social security number, you'll need proof of that, too. For folks under age 18, your parent, custodial parent or legal guardian must provide written consent by signing your application. That's the form DL 1P. You can download it from the www.dmvNOW.com web site, fill it out and bring it with you.

Announcer: Bottom line?

Robert: Bottom line is making sure you know what documents you'll need before visiting the DMV. You can save yourself a lot of time, and hopefully not have to make a return trip to complete your transaction.

Announcer: Thanks Robert. Once again, as a reminder...use the DMV web site in advance before you visit the DMV. Go to www.dmvNOW.com and learn more about what documents you'll need to bring with you.

- End -